



**Community of Hope Church**  
**Community Group Bible Study**

**1 John**

Sept. 2020-Jan. 2021

**Lesson #3: Week of Oct. 4 // 1 John 2:1-6: Christ Our Advocate**

**Read** 1 John 2 aloud. What stands out most as you hear these verses?

**Examine**

- Based on this passage, what character trait qualifies Jesus to be our advocate in this passage?
- What is the evidence in a believer's life that demonstrates knowledge of God?
- What does keeping God's commandments have to do with knowing Him? See John 14:15-17

**Chat**

- Why do you think John chooses light and darkness as metaphors for those who are abiding in Christ and those who are walking in sin? See John 1:1-5 and 1 John 1:5.
- What is an advocate? How does Jesus advocate for us?
- Read Hebrews 10:11-14 – What is the significance of Christ "sitting down" in verse 12?
- If our justification (standing with God) is secure, why do you think our sanctification (growing to be more like Jesus) is so important?

**Apply**

- How has knowing God changed you? How have you and others noticed the difference?
- Propitiation means absorbing God's just wrath towards sinners and turning it into God's favor towards them instead. How does this doctrine encourage you, especially when you fail?
- What does 'abiding' in Christ look like for you right now? How can this community help one another to walk in his ways more intentionally?
- How will you personally seek to know God better so that you will have a higher view of God and his commands?

**Pray**

- Pray for your group to confess their sins before their Advocate in heaven. Pray that God would illuminate any area of darkness in your lives. Pray that you would all experience a deeper hope and joy in Christ throughout this study as its truths become real to your souls.

## Just a Note from Koko

Read: Hebrews 10:11-18 New Living Translation

<sup>11</sup>“ Under the old covenant, the priest stands and ministers before the altar day after day, offering the same sacrifices again and again, which can never take away sins...<sup>17</sup> Then he says, I will never again remember their sins and lawless deeds. <sup>18</sup> And when sins have been forgiven, there is no need to offer any more sacrifices.”

Last Sunday and the days preceding, we sought forgiveness for ourselves, and everyone, from the God who loves us. This message in the book of Hebrews describes what happens to those sins, for which we have sought forgiveness. The message is that Jesus sacrifice of His pure and peaceful earthly life is our redemption from the things that separate us from peace with God.

1 John 2:1&2 “My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense-Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.” To use the illustration that Jesus spoke, about how His Father reacts to the kind of forgiveness requests we have been praying; I remember Jesus illustration of His Father’s reaction in the story of the prodigal going back home. I can see myself shuffling along the road to home, practicing what I will say when I meet my Maker. I am thrilled to look up and see God Almighty, running down the road to meet me and I know there is the biggest, most joyous hug I have ever felt, coming to me with all haste! Imagine, this is what is happening to you and to the millions of people around the globe that joined in confessing and returning to God, this last weekend!

My friends and I have looked around public news and media sources for an acknowledgement, even a celebration, of what we know has transpired, in Washington D.C., this last weekend. I think we are looking in the wrong place for the celebration. The joy is in knowing about the heavenly celebrations, like what is described by Jesus, who witnesses these realities, see Luke 15:10, “In the same way, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.” Think for a minute about what joy means and what it looks like. “Having joy includes feeling good cheer and a vibrant happiness. But joy, in its fuller, spiritual meaning of expressing God's goodness, involves more. It is a deep-rooted, inspired happiness.” Bible definitions, Oxford. Joy, always makes me think of head tipped back, broad grin, ecstatic rapture. It amazes me to think of all heaven in this kind of state because one of us has thought to be regretful for what we have done and turn to God looking for gracious acceptance.

Now that we have returned to God we understand that there is nothing that can come between us and we are reassured of this in Romans 8:38-39 New Living Translation <sup>38</sup>“And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God’s love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God’s love. <sup>39</sup>No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Accepting God’s grace and seeking His face, that is our place. God is always ready for us. Thank you for praying with us in response to the call to return to God.

In His Hands: Koko